

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

IO-11 SAJ-01 SAM-01 ARA-06 ACDA-05 AID-05 /094 W

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R 161720Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6352

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, MILI, AO, CG, BE

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: MORE REPORTING FROM BELGIAN CONSULATE-LUANDA

REF BRUSSELS 1370

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1. SUMMARY. FOREIGN MINISTRY'S AFRICAN DESK OFFICER (VERKAMMEN)

REVIEWED FOR US MARCH 15 RECENT REPORTING FROM BELGIAN CONSULAR OFFICER (GRAFFE) IN LUANDA. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS. END SUMMARY

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS - GRAFFE REPORTED THAT DELAY IN ANGOLAN RESPONSE TO EUROPEAN OFFERS TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH MPLA GOVERNMENT MAY BE EXPLAINED IN PART BY EXTENSIVE TRAVEL OF FOREIGN MINISTER AND REQUIREMENT THAT IMPORTANT DECISIONS BE SUBMITTED TO MPLA POLITICAL COMMITTEE. PERMANENT SECRETARY OF ANGOLAN FOREIGN MINISTRY TOLD GRAFFE THAT AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH "SEVERAL" WESTERN COUNTRIES EXPECTED WEEK OF MARCH 15.

3. ASSASSINATION - GRAFFE REPORTED CONFIRMATION BY MPLA CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF ASSASSINATION BY UNITA OF JOAQUIN PAULO KAPANGU, MEMBER OF POLITICAL BUREAU OF MPLA. GRAFFE COMMENTED THAT KAPANGU WAS ONLY MEMBER OF IMPORTANT OVAMBO TRIBE ON POLITICAL BUREAU.

4. UNITA DEVELOPMENTS - GRAFFE REPORTED "UNEXPECTED ORGANIZED RESISTANCE" BY UNITA BOTH IN SOUTH, NEAR SOUTHWEST AFRICA FRONTIER, AND IN EAST NEAR ZAMBIAN BORDER. MPLA/CUBAN ADVANCE HINDERED BY EXTENSIVE FLOODING AND BLOWN BRIDGES. UNITA STILL HOLDS AND USES SMALL AIRFIELD (1,800 M. RUNWAY) AT NEWQUINHA (PHONETIC) ON CUANGO RIVER. GRAFFE REPORTED NO EVIDENCE OF UNITA GUERRILLA ACTIVITY ON CENTRAL PLATEAU AND COMMENTED THAT OVAMBO TRIBESMEN THERE HAVE "LOST FAITH" IN UNITA AND LEADER SAVIMBI BUT "DISTRUST AND FEAR" CUBANS.

5. SOVIET ARMS CONTINUE TO ARRIVE - GRAFFE REPORTED OFFLOADING OF "SUBSTANTIAL" SOVIET MILITARY MATERIEL AT PORTS OF LOBITO AND MOCAMEDES DURING WEEK OF MARCH 8. HE ALSO REPORTED UNLOADING OF SOVIET MILITARY MATERIEL AT LUANDA WEEK OF MARCH 1 AND SUBSEQUENT SHIPMENT BY RAILROAD TO DONDO. GRAFFE VIEWED CONTINUED DELIVERY OF SOVIET MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO ANGOLA AFTER FIGHTING VIRTUALLY OVER AS "STRANGE".

6. CUBANS - GRAFFE DESCRIBED CUBANS IN ANGOLA AS BEHAVING AS "MASTERS OF COUNTRY". HE REPORTED CUBANS AS "HOSTILE" TO CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT MISSIONARIES AND STATED THAT SUCH CONDUCT WAS "SCHOCKING" CHRISTIAN POPULATION OF ANGOLA.

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HE REPORTED PRESENCE IN INTERIOR OF NUMEROUS CUBAN MEDICAL DOCTORS WHO HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED INTO NEW ANGOLAN PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE. HE CHARACTERIZED THESE DOCTORS AS OF "VERY LOW QUALITY". HE REPORTED "SOME" CUBAN SOLDIERS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED IN FIGHTING NEAR SERPA PINTO (PHONETIC).

7. POWER STRUGGLE AND OPPOSITION - GRAFFE CHARACTERIZED POPULATION IN INTERIOR OF CENTRAL ANGOLA AS "FED UP WITH WAR"

AND THEREFORE WILLING TO PROFFER "PASSIVE ADHESION" TO MPLA. GRAFFE RETURNED IN VARIOUS RECENT REPORTS TO HIS OFT-STADED THEME OF RACIAL TENSION BETWEEN BLACKS AND MULATTOES, BOTH IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT. HE REPORTED ABORTED EFFORT BY MPLA LEADERSHIP IN LATE FEBRUARY TO PURGE ITS RANKS OF POTENTIAL THREATS. THE GOVERNMENT PLANNED TO ANNOUNCE ATTEMPTED COUP D'ETAT, AND IN RESULTANT CRACKDOWN WOULD HAVE USED OCCASION TO ARREST CERTAIN POWERFUL ARMY COMMANDERS AND ALSO KEY FIGURES OF POUVOIR POPULAIRE ON LEFT OF NETO, ESPECIALLY INTERIOR MINISTER NITO ALVAREZ, A BLACK. ALL WERE TO HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH COMPLICITY IN FNLA, UNITA, ZAIRE-SPONSORED COUP ATTEMPT. GRAFFE JUDGED SOVIETS HAD ROLE IN PREVENTING NETO GROUP FROM IMPLEMENTING PLANNED PURGE. SINCE THEN, ACCORDING TO GRAFFE, NETO HAS BEEN MENDING POLITICAL FENCES AND ISSUING CALLS FOR UNITY. HE HAS LOWERED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' SALARIES AND PERQUISITES TO HEAD OFF CHARGES BY AUSTERE MILITARY COMMANDERS, THE LEFT, AND A PORTION OF THE GENERAL POPULATION THAT MEMBERS OF NETO GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN LIVING WELL WHILE OTHERS SUFFERED ECONOMIC HARDSHIP. TO COUNTER EXTENSIVE ANTIPATHY TOWARDS PREPONDERANCE OF MULATTOES IN MPLA LEADERSHIP POSITIONS, MPLA ORGANIZED AN ANTI-RACISM WEEK, CHARGING THAT BLACK RACISM WAS TOOL OF WESTERN IMPERIALISM AND ALLEGING THAT BLACK PANTHERS SUBSIDIZED BY CIA. FIRESTONE

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